OPEN LETTERS

Ranunculus glaberrimus Hook.

Ranunculus glaberrimus has a large broad petaled flower, but it is a small plant—budding close to the ground, the leaf and flower stems lengthening as it advances to fructification, but never getting over 3½ or 4 inches in height. So far as I have seen it never grows on moist flats. Its habitat seems to be sandy gravelly slopes, clear up to the mountain tops. It was the same in eastern Shasta County. I do not know that I ever saw it where there was not sage brush (Artemisia tridentata).

My note book gives the unusually early dates, "budding Feb. 4, 1921; full bloom Feb. 11." It is the warm light soil that makes it come so early. That winter we had no zero weather, but the snow lay on the ground—perhaps two weeks or more.

This buttercup has a rather long blooming period—perhaps a month or six weeks—though flowering on the individual plants does not last so long. The earliest flowers appear first in the warmest most sheltered places; later on, in such places, some plants will be losing their seeds, while a few belated ones are still blooming.

The first year I was in Modoc County I found this first flower of the season in bloom on March 4, 1903. In that year it was noticeable that there were double blossoms on many plants.—Mary H. Manning, southern Modoc Co., July 2, 1923.

Kumlienia hystricula Greene

I am sending you by parcel post a specimen of the first spring flower which was gathered at Don Pedro on the Tuolumne River in the Sierra foothills on January 7. Is it one of our buttercups in flower so early that it has no color?—Adeline Ellsworth, Stanislaus Co., Jan. 9, 1923.

This is the white-flowered Kumlienia hystricula Greene and a remarkably early date to find it in flower. It always grows in the coolest and moistest places in the central Sierras at altitudes of 1500 to 5000 feet. A characteristic habitat is the neighborhood of waterfalls, where it is found within reach of the flying spray or mist. I have always regarded it as a relic of the glacial period, every new fact tending to sustain this view.—W. L. J.

THE SPECIFIC STATUS OF CLAYTONIA NEVADENSIS WATS.

Willis Linn Jepson

A sheet of specimens *(A. L. Grant 420)* from 10,000 feet on Mt. Leavitt, which stands on the crest of the Sierra Nevada in Tuolumne County, proves on examination to answer well to Claytonia nevadensis Watson, which was published by Watson in the Botany of California (1:77) in 1876. Watson's species was based on specimens